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Letter dated 24 March 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 7 January 2005 addressed to you (A/59/696-S/2005/75), I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 2, 9, 14, 21 and 23 February and 2, 3, 9, 11, 14, 16, 21 and 22 March 2005, as follows:

On 2 February 2005, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of Nicosia, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou, from where it departed on the same day towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 9 February 2005, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of Nicosia, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou, from where it departed on the same day towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 14 February 2005, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of Nicosia, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou, from where it departed on the same day towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 21 February 2005, one Gulfstream Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations, before exiting in a south-westerly direction.

On 23 February 2005, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of Nicosia, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal

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airport of Tymbou, from where it departed on the same day towards the FIR of Ankara.

On the same day, one Gulfstream Turkish military aircraft coming from a south-westerly direction entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On the same day, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft took off from the illegal airport of Krini, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of Nicosia, flying over the occupied areas of Mesaoria and Ammochostos, before landing at the same airport.

On 2 March 2005, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of Nicosia, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou, from where it departed on the same day towards the FIR of Ankara.

On the same day, two Turkish military aircraft of unknown type took off from the illegal airport of Krini, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of Nicosia, flying over the occupied areas of Mesaoria and Ammochostos, before landing at the same airport.

On 3 March 2005, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of Nicosia, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou, from where it departed on the same day towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 9 March 2005, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of Nicosia, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou, from where it departed on the same day towards the FIR of Ankara.

On the same day, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 11 and 14 March 2005, two Turkish military aircraft of unknown type took off from the illegal airport of Krini, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of Nicosia, flying over the occupied areas of Mesaoria and Ammochostos, before landing at the same airport.

On 16 March 2005, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft and one Turkish military aircraft of unknown type entered the FIR of Nicosia and carried out a total of three violations of international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of Nicosia, as follows:

(a) The C-160 Turkish military aircraft coming from the FIR of Ankara entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of Nicosia, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou, from where it departed on the same day towards the FIR of Ankara;

(b) The Turkish military aircraft of unknown type took off from the illegal airport of Krini, violating the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou, from where it departed, flying over the occupied area of Ammochostos before landing at the illegal airport of Krini.

On 21 March 2005, one C-130 and one B-200 Turkish military aircraft coming from the FIR of Ankara entered the FIR of Nicosia and carried out a total of four violations of international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of Nicosia, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou, from where they departed on the same day towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 23 March 2005, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft and one Turkish military aircraft of unknown type entered the FIR of Nicosia and carried out a total of three violations of international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of Nicosia, as follows:

(a) The C-130 Turkish military aircraft coming from the FIR of Ankara entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of Nicosia, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou, from where it departed on the same day towards the FIR of Ankara;

(b) The Turkish military aircraft of unknown type took off from the illegal airport of Tymbou, violating the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria, before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I strongly protest the above-cited violations, which not only constitute a serious breach of international law but also seriously endanger international civil aviation, and call for their immediate cessation. Furthermore, such violations maintain a climate of tension and confrontation and hinder efforts for improving the situation on the ground in all fields. It is with great regret that we witness a continuation of Turkey's provocative acts and its insistence on promoting and upgrading a secessionist entity in Cyprus, undermining thus any efforts towards reconciliation and reunification of the island.

Particularly, in view of the opening of accession negotiations with the European Union, Turkey should reconsider its policy on Cyprus, abide by Security Council resolutions and respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. My Government strongly believes that the cessation of violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus could be a significant step in the right direction.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 29, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Andreas D. **Mavroyiannis**